

Walter said he did not care to say, as he had a matter to be settled by himself. The first letter announcing that Downes had a wife and child in Philadelphia reached the Walter home on Tuesday and yesterday Mr. Walter received a letter from Downes. Downes has not about himself in the vicinity of Mr. Walter's home, but he wrote that he was a very much changed person. He told the story of his life from the time he was born, his life, his work.

Three years after his marriage to Miss Thompson, he said, he had become involved in some form of trouble, but was eager to get to the bottom of it, and that it was a financial transaction that he declared, had caused him to be removed of anything that could bring any shame to him, the letter went on, but he felt the necessity as to the fact that he and the rest of the family thought it best to leave the matter to Downes. The letter concluded with the statement that he had paid every cent involved in the financial transaction. To do this, he said, he had sold his books and everything he had.

Mr. Walter told the reporter that his daughter had met Downes in Middletown just a year ago, when she was introduced to him by a friend of the Walter family. The young couple soon showed much attachment for each other. Downes, a well built, good looking chap, with pleasing manners, soon began to make frequent visits to the Mount Vernon home. Later his sister, described by Mr. Walter as an amiable, pretty girl of about 18 years, was also invited to visit the Walter home, and she has been a frequent visitor there.

When Downes asked Mr. Walter if he might marry Miss Edith the latter consented, and in the meantime he had looked into the young man's moral, social and financial standing in Middletown. He learned that Downes had come to Middletown about two years ago and, as far as his new friends in the Connecticut town knew, there was nothing to be said against him.

Downes seems to have shrunk from publicity since the announcement of the postponement of his marriage. Efforts to locate him last night in Middletown were fruitless. George Downes, his brother, said that he had no idea where his brother was, and notwithstanding the letter received by Mr. Walter in which Downes acknowledged his marriage to Miss Thompson, George Downes insisted that his brother did not have a wife and child in Philadelphia. The wedding had been merely postponed because of a slight illness of Miss Walter, George Downes said.

"I think it's now up to him," said Mr. Walter last night, "to change his name again. And in the meantime if he comes here to learn whether the wedding has been put off for good or merely postponed he will learn—well, he'll learn in a few brief words that the marriage has been more than postponed."

PHILADELPHIA, June 6.—John L. Thompson is vice-president of the Pennsylvania Fire Insurance Company and lives at 3432 Havverford avenue.

Mr. Thompson, it was said at the house to-night, had left town to go to Mount Vernon. Mrs. Thompson, however, confirmed the story that they had stopped the marriage of Miss Walter to Robert H. Downes.

"It is true," she said, "that we stopped the wedding. Downes is my daughter's husband and deserted her with her baby. That's all we care to say about it. We will make no further statement."

"Under what name did Downes marry your daughter?"

"Under the name of Henry Robinson. We thought him to be of excellent family; in fact he showed that he was."

"But I won't say anything more," said Mrs. Thompson. "Any statement must come from my husband, but I know he will make none. This whole affair has caused us great sorrow and trouble, and we hoped that it could be kept secret. When we learned that another girl was about to be sacrificed we could not remain quiet and we stopped the wedding. That is all I can say about it."

"Is your daughter living with you?"

"No, we support her and our grandchildren of course, but she is very far away from here. I will not tell you where she is. As yet she knows nothing of this affair."

It was learned from another source that their daughter's wedding has been a great source of sorrow to the Thomsons. Just when the girl was married to Robinson or Downes no one seems to know. The ceremony was very quiet. The couple went away and the elder Thomsons never talked much about it. About two years ago, Mrs. Robinson returned with her baby. She stopped with her parents for some months, but Mr. Robinson was away on business. The trip seemed to be very prolonged, but the Thomsons kept much to themselves, and there were few to ask questions. Early this summer Mrs. Robinson and the child went away.

It is said that Mr. Thompson has had detectives after Robinson ever since his desertion of his daughter, and that they had traced him to Middletown, Conn., where he had set up as a lawyer and that it was through them that the Thomsons learned of his approaching marriage just in time to prevent it.

Mrs. Thompson would not say to-night whether any legal action would be begun against Downes by them.

"There will be a divorce," she said, "but I can say nothing more."

Late to-night a woman, who said she was a member of Mr. Thompson's family, said that Mr. Thompson's daughter Mary was married to Mr. Robinson in 1898. Five years ago, said this woman, she was arrested on a charge of forgery. Mr. Thompson went his bail and immediately thereafter Mr. Robinson disappeared. Divorces proceeding in the courts, but a decree had not been granted.

FINE BUILDINGS FOR POLES.

Clubhouse for 308 Societies on the East Side and a Shelter for Immigrants.

A committee representing wealthy Polish business men of New York was appointed yesterday to select a location and arrange for the building of a popular clubhouse on the East Side for the use of Polish residents, to cost upward of \$100,000. At the same time a local committee appointed by the Polish National Alliance, which has its headquarters in Chicago and numbers over 300,000 members, is arranging for the building in the neighborhood of the Battery of an Emigration House for the temporary care of Polish immigrants. The house, with the land which it will occupy, will cost \$75,000.

The Polish National Home is to be the name of the new clubhouse. The movement to erect it was organized in 1903. It will be the home of 308 Polish societies, among them being the Polish Literary Society, with 2,500 members; the Harmonia, the premier Polish singing society in this country; and the Polish Sharpshooters, the oldest Polish military organization in this country.

The president of the home society for the last two years is Czeslaw Raganowicz, a wealthy broker. Through his efforts \$60,000 has already been subscribed for bonds to build the new clubhouse. The building will be on East Seventeenth street, between First and Second avenues. It will be five stories high, with a frontage of fifty feet and a depth of 100, and will contain a thoroughly equipped gymnasium and a free circulating library. A theatre will occupy one of the floors. A free school of the Polish and English languages will be conducted.

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P. R. R. CLERK'S GRAFT \$91,224

DREW A PERCENTAGE OF P. R. R. COAL RAILROAD INCOME.

"Gifts" Not Even Imagined as Gifts and Medals, but Paid by Check. More Millions of Pennies to the Clerk of the P. R. R. and His Little Family.

PHILADELPHIA, June 6.—Graft administered its most recent dose to the Interstate Commerce Commission when the Pennsylvania Railroad appeared before the body of that body today.

This time it was a clerk having charge of the company's fuel coal purchases who confessed. Thousands of dollars, not in stocks, but in bank notes and checks, were received by a clerk occupying a position which paid only \$7,000 a year.

In three years this clerk Joseph R. Boyer got \$91,224.50 and \$11,700 worth of stock. In other words, while his salary for the three years amounted to \$21,000 he received in addition \$11,724.50.

It was more than a coincidence, according to Lawyer William L. Glasgow, that the mining companies which sent checks to Boyer got large orders for coal.

Even more sensational was the confession of the witness that these payments were made on a commission basis, that is, he received from 3 to 5 per cent upon all coal these graft giving companies sold the railroad. It was therefore to his advantage to place orders with these companies, and he admitted having so placed his orders.

Next in importance was the testimony of M. K. Reeves, chief clerk to Second Vice-President Pugh, whose department has charge of the operation of the railroad. Reeves admitted having received stocks whose par value was \$47,000 and that he still held \$17,000 of these stocks. In explaining how they came into his possession he said they had been given to him by a lifelong friend, Congressman George H. Huff, and that friendship alone inspired the gift.

The witness under the adroit questioning of Lawyer Glasgow of the Pennsylvania Railroad said these stocks were worth nothing when they were given to him.

This looked rather bad for the quality of Col. Huff's friendship, but Lawyer Glasgow a moment later led the witness to say that Col. Huff had recently bought 50,000 of the stock bank, paying Reeves \$2,000 or 500 shares of Keystone Coal.

More revelations of favoritism by the Pennsylvania Railroad to the Berwind-White Coal Company were made, including data regarding the leasing of Harborside Pier in New York Harbor.

By some peculiar arrangement the Pennsylvania Railroad spent \$108,000 on this pier, the land of which was worth \$35,000. This money was paid to the railroad by the Berwind-White Company, but the Pennsylvania at the expiration of the lease was to repay this money to the Berwind-White Company. This means that the Berwind-White Company is receiving the use of a pier which cost the Pennsylvania \$148,000 a year. A pier not as valuable is rented to James Kerr by the Jersey Central Railroad for \$13,000 a year, according to evidence given before the commission.

That the Frick Coal and Coke Company received favors not granted to its competitors, from the Pennsylvania Railroad in the way of free returns to its private cars was also brought out.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, by the evidence of John E. Muhfeld, superintendent of the P. R. R. coal department, was shown to have also made free returns to the Frick cars, although other mining companies had to pay. He said this custom of favoring the Frick company had been in vogue for ten years, and that the Baltimore and Ohio was forced to adopt it because if it had not the Pennsylvania would have captured all the business of the Frick company.

Following the examination of Pennsylvania officials, the commission turned to a number of Baltimore and Ohio Railroad men occupying positions corresponding to those held by the men in the Pennsylvania service who had received free coal stocks and cash.

All the Baltimore and Ohio men denied gifts of stock, and in a few instances where they had received such gifts they had paid for them to prove they had paid hard cash for it.

In humorous contrast with the statements of John E. Muhfeld, who got more than \$60,000 in graft, was the confession of one Baltimore and Ohio man that once in a mining office a box of cigars was passed to Mr. Dryden, challenging him to a series of joint debates. The letter was as follows:

MY DEAR SIR: I have read with interest and pleasure the announcement of your candidacy for reelection as United States senator made by Col. Eusey. Coming from this source, of course, the announcement must be taken as authority. I congratulate you upon your determination to make a canvass before the people in advance of the election, and I am sure that you will render a notable service to clean politics and to representative government. This action on your part, in my judgment, marks the end in New Jersey of the game of "gun show" politics.

Taking it for granted as I do that your desire to reach the people is sincere, I assume that you will be glad to adopt the most effective and convenient means for that purpose. The means is unquestionably a series of joint debates. There is no more effective way to reach and inform the public than by joint debates between competing candidates.

By this means a larger audience is gathered together at each meeting than can be secured in any other way. A joint debate contributes to temperance of expression, to accuracy of statement and affords opportunity for immediate refutation of statements which may be unintentionally made which may be unintentionally made.

The Lincoln-Douglas debates are sufficient proof of the value of this method. I am, therefore, requesting that you join me in a series of joint debates upon our respective candidacies for the nomination of the office which you hold, to be held prior to the primaries on September 26, and in number to be at least one meeting in the county seat of each county and as many more as you desire.

No reply had been received from Senator Dryden up to a late hour last night.

An Alfred Litt. D. for a Sunshine Margulis. Margulis de Trébelec, vicar of St. Michael's Church, Bournemouth, England, got here on Sunday on his way to Alfred University at Alfred, N. Y., where tomorrow he will receive the degree of Doctor of Literature. Alfred is a small educational, non-sectarian institution. The Margulis has just been appointed president of the Great Britain Division of the International Sunshine Society.

LITTLEFIELD PRACTICALLY WINS A REDEMPTION.

LEWISTON, Me., June 6.—The decisive battles in the contest between Congressman Littlefield and the Hon. John P. Swasey for the Republican nomination for the Second district were fought in Lewiston and Auburn last evening. Littlefield carried Auburn by 183 and Swasey captured Lewiston by 178. The carrying of Lewiston by Mr. Littlefield, however, makes practically certain his nomination and really wins the contest.

Want a Million for Hospitals.

Commissioner Darlington was authorized by the Board of Health yesterday to ask the Board of Estimate for an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to continue the additions being made to the contagious disease hospitals on North Brother Island, at the foot of the yellow dock, and on Kingston avenue, Brooklyn.

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agencies in all principal cities in the world.

FIELDS EXPOSES LEGISLATORS

Continued from First Page.

corporate is guilty, whereas the person who actually makes the entry may be innocent.

The Grand Jury is said to be satisfied that there was very little actual stealing on the part of the officers of the company—in other words, the money that was diverted from the treasury of the company did not reach the pockets of the officers of the company, but went to meet holdup demands from all over the country.

It is said that the demands of public officials of many States were not only met, but exceeded. For instance, a letter has been found from the Governor of a State in the West. He had received an offer from the Mutual to exert whatever influence he could in behalf of the company. In his letter accepting the retainer he took the precaution to make this statement: "Of course, it is expressly understood that this is not to include anything in the nature of lobbying."

For what other purpose the Governor would be valuable has not been discovered.

The methods of some of the State superintendents of insurance were novel. For years it has been the practice of these superintendents to visit the city in the summer months when the seaside resorts were in bloom. They would also make a call on the Mutual, ostensibly for the purpose of making an examination of the financial standing of the company. One superintendent went to the officers of the Mutual and made this query:

"Have you got all the securities you say you have?"

"Of course," said one of the officials. The superintendent was taken to the vaults, in which there were securities valued at \$192,000,000. The superintendent looked it over and asked to see one package. The package contained railroad bonds. The superintendent took out a foot rule and measured the length, breadth and thickness of the package. Then he took the dimensions of the vault. After a little arithmetic and looking wise, he said:

"Oh, I guess you've got all the securities you say you have."

Many persons in insurance circles, including some of the officers of the big companies, believe that all information regarding the demand by public officials ought to be brought out regardless of whether or not it is possible to convict the men accused. They point out that in practically the only phase of the insurance situation which the Armstrong committee did not investigate thoroughly. That was because the committee could not get hold of either Fields of the Mutual or Hamilton, who had charge of the New York Life's legislative disbursements. Now that the entire yellow dog system operated by the big companies has been exposed the only little likelihood of success will have the men who got the money.

No definite knowledge has ever been obtained as to the amount which Fields paid out. It has been estimated that at least \$100,000 a year went into his hands through the operation of the padded and bogus bill systems. The New York Life paid Hamilton all told more than \$900,000 for the conduct of his legislative bureau, and the other big companies have been accused of favoring the same man.

They point out that the payment of \$100,000 a year to Hamilton is about \$1,000,000. Neither the Armstrong committee nor the special investigating committees of the big companies have been able to discover in detail where one cent of this money went.

The Grand Jury is convinced that many false statements were made to the State Superintendent of Insurance, but it is doubtful if it is possible to indict the men responsible for them. It was explained that the officers who knew that the statements were false did not certify to them, but induced others to certify to the correctness of the reports. Whoever did the certifying did not know that the reports were false, so they could not be charged with perjury. The persons who induced the signing of the reports could not be indicted for subornation of perjury, as perjury had not been committed. It was necessary for the persons who signed the report to know that it was false.

Congressman Joseph W. Babcock of Wisconsin, who was telegraphed for by Mr. Jerome, sent word from Washington yesterday that he might not be able to leave his legislative work and appear before the special Grand Jury this week. He said, however, that he would get here as soon as possible.

It is said that Mr. Jerome does not attach particular importance to Representative Babcock's testimony, as it has been established that Robert A. Granville paid the \$2,500 to the Republican Congressional committee in 1904, as THE SUN has told, but it is not clear who gave the money to Congressman Babcock, the chairman of the committee. Warren F. Thummler, who is in the department of the Mutual, testified before the Armstrong committee that he gave the money to Congressman Babcock, but that is now disputed.

The Grand Jury was puzzled in its inquiry about this particular transaction, because it has been unable to discover from what particular fund of the Mutual the money was paid out of and in what account a false entry was made in the books to cover it. Unless the false entry can be discovered, it will be impossible for the Grand Jury to return an indictment, as the Appellate Division, in the Perkins decision, has decided that the mere payment of the money was not larceny.

In a number of cases, it is said, the Grand Jury has been baffled by being unable to get a bit of evidence that would connect a collection of circumstances pointing to a crime. There are many downward instances of forgery, but in several cases some entry, or lack of an entry, has been missing, which, if discovered, would be all that would be necessary to return an indictment. So far as the Grand Jury has been able to discover there was nothing crooked among the bookkeepers of the Mutual.

Robert A. Granville's former vice-president, has retained Lord, Day & Lord to defend the suit which the Mutual is to bring against him for an accounting of the yellow dog funds on filed to his trust. The Mutual served the summons in the action on Mr. Granville's counsel yesterday, and it is expected that they will appear in the suit today.

George W. Perkins Case Appealed.

ALBANY, N. Y., June 6.—There has been filed with the Clerk of the Court of Appeals a notice of appeal from the Appellate Division's decision which exonerated George W. Perkins from any criminal intent in connection with life insurance company campaign contributions. The question is such an important one that a decision of the court of last resort is desired.

Indiana's Governor to Join International Policyholders' Committee.

INDIANAPOLIS, June 6.—Gov. Hanly has decided to accept the invitation to become a member of the "International Policyholders' Committee" of New York City. The invitation was extended by Seymour Eaton, secretary, and Samuel Undermyer, counsel, for the committee, was received yesterday.